

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (original):** A method of operating on a coloured
2 digitised image in a computer to derive therefrom the image in
3 abstract computer representation, comprising the steps of:
4 (a) creating a digital image in a plurality of colours,
5 with each colour representing an assigned set of features of the
6 image;
7 (b) storing in the computer for each possible feature
8 (i) one or more characteristic signatures of its
9 graphical representation,
10 (ii) its associated abstract computer
11 representation, and
12 (iii) the associated set to which the feature
13 belongs;
14 (c) segmenting the digitised image from step (a) into its
15 respective colours;
16 (d) selecting one feature of one of the segmented colours
17 of step (c) and comparing the selected feature with each feature
18 of each of the sets stored in the computer at step (b);
19 (e) identifying a match for the feature selected in step
20 (d), and assigning to the set of stored features containing the
21 matched feature the associated segmented colour;
22 (f) comparing each feature of the matched segmented colour
23 of the digitised image with all the stored features of the

24 associated segmented colour color and identifying matches
25 therebetween, thereby to derive for each feature in digitised
26 graphic representation a respective matched feature in computer
27 representation; and

28 (g) repeating steps (d), (e) and (f) for other segmented
29 colours, thereby to assign each colour to a respective one of the
30 sets of features stored in the computer in computer
31 representation and to match features of the digitised image with
32 respective ones of the features stored in the computer.

1 **Claim 2 (original):** A method according to claim 1, wherein
2 the matching obtained in step (e) comprises the best match
3 between a selected feature of the digital image and the stored
4 features in abstract computer representation.

1 **Claim 3 (currently amended):** A method according to claim 1
2 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the digital image contains one set of
3 features in one, and only one, more colour than the number of
4 assigned sets stored in the computer in step (b), whereby for
5 said coloured set of features no match is obtainable in step (e),
6 and no derivation is effected in step (f).

1 **Claim 4 (original):** A method according to claim 3, wherein
2 the non-assigned set of features comprises sketches.

1 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** A method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the sets of features
3 comprise letters, digits, icons or symbols.

1 **Claim 6 (currently amended):** A method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~the of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the digital image
3 is inputted into the computer by means of 'paint' software.

1 **Claim 7 (currently amended):** A method according to ~~any one~~
2 ~~of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a coloured image is drawn
3 manually, is scanned by a colour scanner, and is the stored in
4 the computer as the digital image.